

About Us

The Kean University Writing Project offers professional development and leadership training in writing for teachers in all subject areas and at all instructional levels, k-16, throughout our area of service.

Through working with partner institutions on teaching writing and using writing to teach, the Project trains and coordinates teams of Teacher Consultants; these master teachers share their Writing Project supported expertise and excitement with fellow teachers and with those who need them most - their students.

Through building community networks, the Kean University Writing Project coordinates writing-centered pedagogies to support excellence in teaching, professional leadership, and personal growth.

For Kean University and partner institutions, our shared goal is to work with teachers as they lead their colleagues, their communities, and, most importantly, their students to experience the excitement and rewards of writing.

Kean University Writing Project

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Kean University Writing Project

WRITING STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

*Brought to you by
the Kean University
English Department*



Tel: 908-737-0410

Why Strategies for Writing?

We at the Kean University Writing Project understand that it is difficult to have students actively engaged in the writing process during classroom instruction. Be it their diverse background (ELL learner, perhaps), a student who has little motivation to write, or one whom lacks confidence in his or her writing, we are here to help! Writing can be streamlined into your curriculum so adeptly that students won't even think twice about that pesky writing assignment you gave to them for homework the other night.



Quick writes, dialogues, double-entry journals, thinkbooks, and other practices are just the beginning of the writing strategies surface. For those students who are intimidated by writing because of the grade they may receive, explore the idea of ungraded, low stakes writing as a starting point. The possibilities are endless!

A SNIPPET OF WHAT YOU'LL LEARN FROM US

Some of the reasons why we use in-class writing include:

- To improve class discussion
- To show students where their thinking lacks clarity
- To prepare students to listen and observe critically
- To alert teachers to content that should be reviewed or explained further

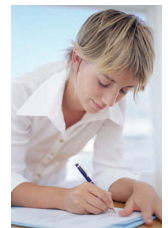
Once you've given an in-class writing assignment, expand on the activity:

- Ask your students directly: "What did you write?" It is much more effective to ask specifically for what they've written as opposed to "What does everyone think?"
- Place students within small groups and have them read each other's work. Groups offer a less threatening environment for sharing.
- Collect in-class "one minute" response papers when completed so students understand that they haven't been given busy work; this assignment will count towards their class participation. Explain that it will not be graded (this will take the edge off (of those students who fear their writing will not return an "A" grade).

HOW WE CAN HELP...

The Kean University Writing Project is committed to helping you grow and advance in your use of writing strategies within your classroom. We extend an invitation for you to join us in our Writing Strategies Workshop, which will cover some of the following topics:

- Best Practices for Effective Writing Instruction
- Double-Entry Journals / Journal entries
- Expository Writing
- Learning Logs
- Writing Assignment Ideas That Won't Drown You in Paper
- The Practice of "Admit Slips"
- Thinking on Paper
- In-Class Responses
- Parallel Writing
- Recording Observations



We encourage you to let us know what topics your school may be interested in learning more about! The KUWP can tailor a workshop specifically for your needs! Please contact Linda Best at 908-737-0377 or via email at lbest@kean.edu for more information!